

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 1502 - HB 1494

February 14, 2014

SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL: Authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS) to designate a licensed physician assistant who holds a master's degree and has expertise in psychiatry to perform any duties imposed on a physician related to the emergency detention, admittance for emergency diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment and transportation to a treatment facility.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (012165): Specifies that the DMHSAS determines what training, education or experience represents expertise in psychiatry.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- The proposed legislation will expand the pool of mental health professionals who can perform the specified duties. Any fiscal impact to the DMHSAS is estimated to be not significant.
- According to the Department of Health, authorizing a physician to designate a physician assistant as a qualified mental health professional and capable of performing certain tasks under the supervision of such physician would have no impact upon the Department or any health related board.
- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-3-1011, all health-related boards are required to be self-supporting over a two-year period. As of June 30, 2013, the Board of Medical Examiners had a balance of \$2,441,396.

SB 1502 - HB 1494

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/jdb